

[Mr. Chairman] [27th December 1956]

He certifies that the above are Money Bills within the meaning of article 199 of the Constitution of India.

I have further to announce to the House that I have received the following message, dated the 26th December 1956, from the Deputy Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly :—

“ In accordance with rule 114 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras District Collectors' Powers (Delegation) Bill, 1956 (L.A. Bill No. 40 of 1956), as passed by the Assembly on the 26th December 1956 and signed by me, for the concurrence of the Council.”

(3) ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF INDUSTRIES.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have also to announce to the House that Sri T. Purushotham, M.L.C., is the only candidate duly nominated for election to the Board of Industries. As the number of candidates nominated is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, namely, one, I hereby declare him duly elected to the Board of Industries.

III.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 1956 (L.A. BILL NO. 44 OF 1956).

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Mr. Chairman, I beg to move—

“ That the Madras Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1956 (L.A. Bill No. 44 of 1956), as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration.”

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved—

“ That the Madras Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1956 (L.A. Bill No. 44 of 1956), as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration.”

* SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Mr. Chairman, the Appropriation Bill that we are taking up now for discussion is with reference to the interim Budget. Now, on page 7 of the White Paper on the Budget, we find under the head “ Education ” this statement, viz., “ The reduction of Rs. 164 lakhs is due in equal measure to reorganization and delay in the implementation of new schemes, for which only a lump sum was provided in the Budget.” I would like to have enlightenment from the Hon. the Minister for Education on whether this delay includes delay in the implementation of promises with regard to the enhancement of salaries of teachers under the Second Plan. If so, I would humbly request the Hon. Minister to see that retrospective effect is given to the orders sanctioning the enhanced scale from 1st April 1956. With regard to the various new schemes listed from pages 46 to 50 under Education, I should like to have enlightenment and to make

27th December 1956] [Sri G. Krishnamoorthi]

certain observations on certain points. On pages 46 and 47, we find provision for basic education, Bi-monthly conferences and Regional Basic Conferences. The provision in the interim Budget alone for the next four months from April 1957 for convening bi-monthly conferences on basic education is Rs. 40,000. The provision for the convening of Regional Basic Conferences for the same period of four months during 1957-58 is given as Rs. 6,000. Thus, for conferences alone under Basic Education, a sum of Rs. 46,000 has been allotted for that part of the year 1957-58. I would welcome it if really the Government are for the immediate conversion of all elementary schools into basic schools. Somehow or other we are just creating two castes among the children, viz., basic school children and non-basic school children. Somehow or other, the parents have begun to feel that sending children to basic schools is not as good as sending them to the ordinary schools. This sort of idea created among the parents must be dispelled and it will be in the interests of the public and future generation as well to convert as soon as possible all the elementary schools into basic schools. I have already made my submission on the sacred floor of this House that it is not, after all, a very great thing for the present teachers to handle the basic schools provided they are given some short training in one summer vacation. Under item 47, "Organization of Short-Training Courses in Citizenship for Pupil-teachers and for Instructors", a sum of Rs. 20,900 has been provided for the short period of four months in the year 1957-58.

Now, as one who was in the teaching profession until very recently and as one who is in the know of things, I must submit to the Government that this citizenship training, which is more a duplication of scouting, has not found favour with schools. I would, therefore, humbly request the Government to issue instructions to the various District Educational Officers to see whether this training is really given to the boys throughout the year, as shown in the curriculum of studies. If difficulties have been felt by high schools in imparting this training to boys, the real reasons behind must be ascertained so that waste of public funds on this duplication of scouting may be avoided.

Then, there is a provision of Rs. 3,800 for the training course for teachers for teaching "Home Crafts" in Forms I to III of Secondary Schools for girls. I would humbly beseech the Government to tell us of what use it is to teach home crafts to such young girls especially in our Indian atmosphere. When there are mothers at home to teach cooking to girls in the household, I wonder what this teaching of home crafts in Forms I to III will achieve. The real teacher of this subject is the mother, who like Goddess Lakshmi or Saraswathi, and she alone can impart instruction in cooking at home. As the proverb goes, 'too many cooks spoil the broth', the method of so many girls sitting around the mistress and preparing a cake, which is not really good, and swallowing it themselves before anybody sees it, is not really the method of teaching homecrafts. This is the sort of training provided and should public funds be wasted to help this process?

[27th December 1956]

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY: Let the mother be trained.

* SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Then, Sir, with regard to adult education, a sum of Rs. 61,800 is provided for opening sixty adult literacy schools and two training schools for teachers in adult literacy methods under the Second Five-Year Plan. I was very glad that the old type of adult literacy schools have been abolished. I want to know whether this provision means the revival of the old type of schools abolished already. If it means opening of new type of schools, I would strongly support it.

Then, Sir, I find a provision of Rs. 3,00,000 for employment of additional inspection staff in the Education Department. Of this, nearly Rs. 1½ lakhs we are going to get from the Centre as grant. There is also a provision of Rs. 33,29,600 for the purpose of enrolment of additional pupils of the age group 6—14 in elementary schools. Of this also, we are going to get half from the Centre by way of grant. So, for an expansion of our education which is going to cost Rs. 33 lakhs, we want an agency to supervise it, which will cost Rs. 3 lakhs—nearly one-eleventh or 9 per cent. I would request the Government kindly to consider whether it is necessary at all to spend about 9 per cent of the total cost on the Inspectorate. Now, as in every other Department of Government, is there an assessment of work done by the Inspectorate in order to determine whether an Inspectorate or a supervisory agency is warranted or not. Leaving apart that question, is there any need for any inspection at all in Free India where everybody is expected, as a citizen entrusted with certain work, to do that work faithfully? I would request the Government to consider how much this Inspectorate will contribute to the normal working of the schools. When a Deputy Inspector of Schools visits an elementary school, much of the school work is disturbed. With regard to secondary schools, I would ask the Government whether it is necessary to have an enlarged Inspectorate at all now, especially after the introduction of audit. But with reference to elementary schools, I hear—I am not sure—that the number of visits that the Deputy Inspector pays to such schools has been curtailed. I would request the Government to see that these Inspectors do only one inspection a year. The Department should think in terms of grouping ten or twelve elementary schools in a particular locality and entrusting the inspection work to the Headmaster of the local high school. After all, the parents are there. And there is a growing feeling among them that they are entitled to go to the Hon. the Minister for Education direct to report about things going on in respect of schools, etc., in their respective localities. So, we need not have such an enlarged Inspectorate. After all, inspection disturbs the normal work in the school. After the year 1947, the whole concept has changed. In a Welfare State, the Inspectors are expected to look to the welfare of the teachers. They should help and not hinder education. They are not there to find fault with teachers. Like auditors, they have always got an eye on the mistakes committed. On the other hand, they should enable the schools to

27th December 1956] [Sri G. Krishnamoorthy]

function well and help the teachers to do their work better. Now, I would like to point out one thing, subject to correction, of course. I hear there are columns in the inspection report which deal with the confidential reports about the teachers. I do not know when they came into existence, whether they were there already or whether they have come into existence only now. I would like these to be deleted. The inspecting officers including the District Educational Officers should enquire about the welfare of the teachers. They must ask the managements whether provident fund accounts have been opened in respect of all teachers, whether there is security of service for them in the school, how many teachers have been newly appointed, from which part of the district they come—from the same district or from the neighbouring district and whether the leave rules are liberal enough or are at least on a par with the Government leave rules or leave rules in respect of elementary school teachers. Sir, the other day, I was referring to a particular case wherein a teacher under the Tanjore District Board who was suffering from neural type of leprosy and who was eligible for 12 months' privilege leave and 11 months' medical leave was discharged without grant of any leave. There is provision for grant of full leave at credit for treatment under Article 254 of the Pension Code, but he was refused leave . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : It was an individual case and the question was disallowed. How can the hon. Member refer to it now?

* SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : May I submit that this is the proper time for mentioning it, now that we are discussing the Appropriation Bill?

MR. CHAIRMAN : That question has been disallowed. I cannot permit the hon. Member to refer to it. There can be no argument about it.

* SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : This may be an individual case. But there are cases wherein the Inspectors can do a lot to redress the grievances of the teachers without much of departmental correspondence. After all, the rules are there only to help the teachers and not to give trouble to them.

Finally, I would request the Hon. the Minister for Education to see that under the Second Five-Year Plan, the revised scales of pay are ordered with effect from 1st April 1956, the date on which the Plan came into operation—that all are given at least the Government scales of pay which are in force and which have been contemplated under the Plan—and that the house-rent allowance which is denied only to a particular category of teachers, viz., teachers in aided institutions, is given to them also. After all, Sir, the latter costs only Rs. 10 lakhs and for a Government which get nearly Rs. 52 crores a year by way of revenue, this is not difficult. It will go a long way in helping the teachers who are working in the City especially.

[27th December 1956]

3-30
p.m.

* SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : I want to lay stress upon only one point, Sir. The hon. Member Sri G. Krishnamoorthi raised the question of "inspection". I think that "inspection" will not hereafter be a kind of policing, but that it will be a kind of instruction by experienced teachers. (The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam : "Guidance") Yes, Sir, it may be a sort of "guidance". There is a specific recommendation in the Secondary Education Commission Report that the inspectorate should be headed by Senior Headmasters and Senior Masters. If the Government are pleased to include this kind of experienced people in the inspectorate, it will go a long way in doing some good work. I am not decrying "inspection" at all. There must be a sort of "guidance" and that is what the inspectorate should bear in mind. I should like to inform the Hon. the Minister for Education that the Andhra Government have gone one step further in this direction. They have said that schools within a radius of 7 or 8 miles should be inspected by lecturers in the training colleges in the vicinity. Of course, it is needless to say that those lecturers should be experienced persons. So far as the administrative side is concerned, the District Educational Officers may look after it. Experienced teachers may be recruited to the inspectorate on a tenure basis, say, for 3 or 4 years, when they would go round the schools and do the inspection; after three or four years, they may go back to their original profession. In this way, experienced teachers may be provided with opportunity of serving in the inspectorate.

The hon. Member Sri G. Krishnamoorthi spoke about "citizenship training". I am not here to contradict what he says. I agree with what he has said, viz., that the citizenship training is not well done. But we have to admit that everything cannot be well done in the beginning. By and by we can set matters right. It will take some time for things to become perfect. Speaking about "scouting", I may say that it is not possible to give training in "scouting" to all students. But it is possible to give training in "citizenship" to all students. I have myself undergone that citizenship training for 15 days. It has got many good features. We have to take the good features and leave the bad ones. In any system there are bad features. I think "citizenship training" if properly imparted can be introduced successfully in all schools.

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Mr. Chairman, I am aware of my limitations in rising to speak on this Bill and I assure you, Sir, I will not transgress the limit laid down and start a general Budget debate, once again.

During the discussion on the Budget, a request was made to the Government that in conformity with the general principle of exempting all essential foodstuffs from the levy of sales tax, milk and coconut should be exempted from it. The Government were requested to consider this question, declare their policy and pass

27th December 1956] [Sri T. Purushotham]

necessary orders in this connection. I hope, Sir, that the Government have considered this matter and if not, I would appeal to the Hon. the Minister for Revenue and the Hon. the Minister for Finance to examine this question and sanction the necessary relief prayed for. On a question of principle, we have agreed that all perishable foodstuffs should be exempted from the levy of sales tax and, therefore, it is but proper that milk and coconut should be exempted from the levy of sales tax. The Hon. the Minister for Revenue assured us on the floor of this House during the discussion on the supplementary estimates that this request would be considered and I do hope Government would consider this aspect and do the needful.

Reference was made by the teachers' representatives to the grant of house-rent allowance to aided school teachers as in the case of Government and local board teachers. This question was discussed by the Committee on the White Paper on Education and the Hon. Minister assured us that it would be re-examined. This question of granting house-rent allowance to aided school teachers deserves sympathetic consideration and I would appeal to Government to consider this request of teachers favourably.

Because we are at the fag-end of this session, I cannot but refer to one matter of urgent public importance. The Local Library Authorities in the districts ceased to function in July or August last. They have not been reconstituted in any of the districts. (The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam: The present committees will continue.) I may inform the Hon. Minister that no orders have been received notifying the names of the members elected by the municipalities and panchayats as also the nominations made by the State Government. Practically there is no local library authority functioning now. Because I have been myself Chairman of the Local Library Authority in Chingleput, I know the position. There was an order from the Director of Public Libraries that we had ceased to function from a date in August. The body is defunct now and there is no work going on. We know that the District Educational Officers have practically no time to pay attention to this branch of work. The hon. Member Sri V. R. Ranganatha Mudaliar referred to this in his speech. The District Educational Officers have their own heavy duties to perform and they have no time to attend to this branch of work. Papers are accumulating as they require the sanction of local library authority. The Budget for the next year will have to be submitted to the Director of Public Libraries by the 15th of December. We are now at the end of December. There is no local library authority functioning now. I would appeal to the Hon. Minister to enquire into this matter and see to it that early orders are passed for reconstituting these local library authorities.

I have already conveyed our thanks to the Hon. the Minister for Finance for his able management of the State's finances during the past five years—the Hon. Minister was absent at that time when

[Sri T. Purushotham] [27th December 1956]

I conveyed our thanks. I wished him not only success in the coming elections but we wish that he would continue to handle the finances of this State as Minister once again. I reiterate what I said already and I congratulate him in anticipation of his success in the elections and return to his place in the Cabinet.

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR: Sir, I would like to stress only one point. As regards the temples in the Kanyakumari district, I find in the explanatory note that they have set apart a sum of Rs. 5,62,500 to the Devaswom Fund established in this State for the maintenance of Hindu temples transferred to Madras from the Travancore-Cochin State according to the States Re-organization Act. It has also been stated that the Government have decided to adapt the Travancore-Cochin Hindu Religious Institutions Act of 1950 for the establishment of a Devaswom Fund, etc. Pending this, the Commissioner of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Madras, has been empowered by the States Reorganization Act to exercise the powers of the Devaswom Board. For the coming year, 1956-57, a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs under "Miscellaneous" is charged on the Consolidated Fund of India. This amount is for the four months, viz., April, May, June and July 1957, I think. So far as these temples are concerned, I think the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act should apply. There should be one administration for the whole State, including the temples that have been taken over by the Madras State from the Travancore-Cochin State and which are situated in the Kanyakumari district. Why should the Travancore-Cochin Act be adapted for this purpose? It may be for a temporary period. But finally I would request that there should be only one administration for all temples. There should not be any separate board. It should be under the administrative control of the Commissioner for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Madras, so that the whole administration may be conducted smoothly in the whole State.

3-40
p.m.

This note, Sir, gives me the idea that they want to have a separate Devaswom Board and a separate Devaswom Fund for that purpose. I would request the Government to consider whether this is necessary. The whole thing might be put under the control of the Commissioner for Hindu Religious Endowments and he should be empowered to administer the whole thing. Article 290 (a) of the Constitution stipulates the payments of such amount and therefore it is perhaps that they want to do this. But we have to appeal to the Government to take this matter up with the Government of India and see that this amount is not paid to the Travancore-Cochin (Kerala) Board. (The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam: That is not the idea. We will have a Board here.) Why is that necessary? That is the point that I want to make. That would create a lot of difficulties. It would be better if the Commissioner for the Hindu Religious Endowments who is the officer concerned and who has the Commissioner's Fund is empowered in this behalf

27th December 1956] [Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar]

also, so that the whole thing may be administered by the Commissioner himself. That aspect of the question may kindly be examined by the Government.

I very sincerely join with the hon. Member Sri T. Purushotham and say that we are very thankful to the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education for having steered the ship of State quite safely and well all these five years. I personally wish that he should succeed and that he should be a Minister again. Thank you, Sir.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the very outset, let me admit that I have practically no point to make. But as the Hon. the Finance Minister is going to reply, I want to say a few words. While wishing him all success along with other hon. Members, I have to say that he has, in fact, the good wishes of the entire House. Somehow, he seems to have developed good feelings for us. If I had my own way, I would have requested the Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam to become a Member of the Legislative Council rather than a Member of the Assembly. Probably it may stand in the way of certain other things. Therefore, let things remain as they are. We all wish him every success. At the same time, we should not ignore the Hon. the Revenue Minister who, though in certain respects was not quite agreeable to us, particularly in the matter of taxation, has been uniformly courteous to us with his smiling face and has got through very difficult Bills in as short a time as possible. We wish him also success. Let me stop there as far as that point is concerned. Of course, though we wish them to continue to hold the same portfolios, that is a matter to be decided afterwards and we should not create difficulties or embarrassment now.

Sir, we are thankful to the Hon. the Finance Minister for the assurance given by him the other day that he would go into the whole question of the services and effect economy, if possible. Surely I should say that that is a step in the right direction. I only like to say this again. Inasmuch as our State has been reduced both in population and in size, it should be considered whether it is not possible to effect economy in expenditure. Of course, I am not saying anything as far as the present employees are concerned and I do not say that their salaries should be cut down. But with regard to the future, what is the policy of this Government and are they going to pay the same high salaries as we are paying now to the future employees also or is there going to be any revision? These things they have to decide and that is one matter which the Government of Madras and the Finance Minister would do well to examine.

The second point I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. the Finance Minister—unfortunately the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture who is in charge of Industries is not here—is this. Last time, the Agriculture Minister made mention—I do not

[Sri Mohamed Raza Khan] [27th December 1956]

recollect whether in this House or in the other House—that there was a draft Bill under the consideration of the Government for control or regulation of the beedi industry in the State of Madras. Sir, I quite appreciate the point of view of the Government. I know that they do want that certain benefits should accrue to the beedi workers in the matter of daily wages, etc. Knowing as I do the beedi industry, it is not such an easy thing to effect changes overnight. It is a very difficult matter. For decades the beedi industry has been a small cottage industry, as far as our State is concerned. Moreover, lakhs and lakhs of people, both men and women, are engaged in this industry and they carry on their work in small huts and houses. It has been so for a long time and it cannot be helped. Why I am making reference to this matter is this. First, the Hon. Minister made an announcement that the Government were very much anxious to get the Bill through. Owing to certain difficulties and also because a reference had to be made to the Central Government as it involved regulation of labour, Government have postponed the Bill. They would be taking it up some time later, I hope, in May or June after the General Elections. Subsequent to the Minister's announcement, there has been some agitation and there have been some demands to take out a procession before the Legislative Assembly. But I would tell the Government “For Heaven's sake, do not be carried away by these artificial attempts”. Not that I do not in any way sympathise with the labourers; I do sympathise with them. If the Government want to bring in legislation to help them get some more benefits and amenities, well and good. But let them not be just bamboozled by this attempt at agitation. I am sorry to say that this is being done more to exploit the situation for political purposes, more with an eye on the elections, by some interested people. I am referring to this because any haste in the matter will affect the lakhs and lakhs of people engaged in the industry; they depend entirely on this industry. May be the workers, especially the women, are not getting proper wages. Therefore, I ask the Government not to be in a hurry in the matter of this legislation. If they have to delay it, it does not matter. I know it is a very difficult matter. The whole thing has to be thrashed out completely and when the Bill is brought in, it may even have to go to a Select Committee, a Joint Select Committee preferably, so that some of the Members might go and visit the places in the City of Madras and a few centres in Tiruchirappalli and other places and hear the views of both sides, the industrialists as also the workers. Then the Government might bring in the legislation. I am only suggesting—I am not warning the Government—that the Government may be careful in this matter. Otherwise, lakhs and lakhs of workers will be in the streets. Of course, one or two incidents may possibly take place; some strikes may take place in certain places. But the financial magnates and industrialists are not bothered about all that. But the unfortunate workers, thousands and thousands of them, would be thrown out of job. Unfortunately, they know only one type of work and that is the manufacture of beedies; they do not

27th December 1956] [Sri Mohamed Raza Khan]

know any other work. Therefore, I hope the Hon. the Minister for Finance and the Government will not rush through any legislation in this behalf. They may take some time in considering the Bill in Committee and then they may also examine what exactly they should do to help both the parties.

Regarding handloom weavers, I have already referred to this question previously. But I feel it is good to refer to it once again, although it would be much better if the hon. Member, Mr. Arunachalam, refers to it, as he could do it in a better way. In spite of the fact that both the Centre and the State are doing their best and in spite of the fact that a good deal of money is being spent from out of the Cess Fund, the fact remains—it is an undeniable fact—that the majority of the handloom weavers are not in the orbit of the co-operative societies. Even if Government want to do something, they remain outside the orbit of the co-operative societies and the result is that the entire benefit which is sought to be given to them by both the Centre and the State does not reach them. That itself is proof of the fact that there is something basically wrong about the matter. Otherwise, I do not understand why the handloom weavers, if they stand to gain so much by joining the co-operative societies, refrain from joining them. I am sure that the Hon. the Minister for Finance, as far as our Government are concerned, will examine the question. It seems that there has been some scheme prepared by the Department to help the handloom weavers who remain outside the orbit of the co-operative societies. I hope the Government will try to examine what is radically wrong about the matter. Even otherwise, I hope it will not be too much to ask of the Hon. the Minister for Finance to find a way out so that these people also may get the benefit.

As a friend of the Government, I just like to ask one thing because certain things can be achieved best by representing them instead of making an open reference on the floor of the Legislative Council. The other day, my hon. Friend on my left Sri Ranganatha Mudaliar and the hon. Member Sri John Asirvatham made some references to the Police in the City of Madras. I do not want to say much on this subject. I may only tell the Hon. the Minister for Finance that there have been too many reports about high-handedness on the part of the Police, particularly in the lower rungs. I know that it may be due to the action of an enthusiastic individual or a few people, but it is the Government that gets into the bad books of the people. I wish that the Government examined the matter and saw that there was no excess on the part of the Police. Of course, the public and the Government want that illicit distillation of arrack and betting on New York Cotton prices should be stopped. I only request the Hon. the Finance Minister to enquire into the matter and stop such excesses in future. Of course, if there is nothing of the sort complained of, the matter ends.

[Sri Mohamed Raza Khan] [27th December 1956]

There is not much to say on this occasion. As the hon. Member Sri Purushotham has done, it will be rather embarrassing to talk of the merits of persons in their own presence. We might or might not have differed from some Ministers and particularly the Hon. the Minister for Finance. But this much I can say. The Hon. the Finance Minister has earned the reputation that during the five years he has been the Minister in charge of Finance, he has had two qualities to his credit. One is that he has tried to see that justice is done. After all, our State is not in a good position in the matter of finance as compared with other States. But with the meagre resources available, he has tried to make the best use of them and nobody could charge him or the Government that money was wasted in this or that. He has earned that great reputation. Then, in his dealings with the Central Government to get what we deserved, he never faltered. He never kept quiet and he tried his best to see that Madras got as much as possible from the Central Government. The last thing which he has done for us was referred to the other day when, unfortunately, he was not here. The crowning piece of his success was that when he was in Delhi, he was able to convince the Central Government authorities that the time had come for the Central Government to take up the question of levying excise duties on cloth, tobacco and sugar. No doubt, we all felt happy because in one way it might give some relief to many of the small petty shop-keepers. As I said the other day, we can just imagine how Madras cloth merchants are being affected by having to pay an additional sales tax of one anna and three pies. I think the Hon. the Minister for Revenue is well aware how much of business is being done without passing the usual receipts, in order to evade sales tax. However, a decision is now reached—in which matter the Hon. the Minister for Finance played a very important part—that the time has come for the Central Government to levy excise duty on these particular commodities. It is really pleasing to us to hear the Hon. the Finance Minister say that the Madras Government will stand to gain in that they will get much more than what they are getting out of sales tax. I am sure that it is a step in the right direction and that it will succeed. The Madras Government will stand to gain and at the same time, they will be trying to satisfy the demands of the public of Madras that in these matters some sort of reform is necessary.

* SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I should like to say just one word. I wish to add my voice of strength to what the hon. Member Sri Mohamed Raza Khan has said as far as the beedi industry is concerned. The beedi industry is, I think, in the hands of the Muslim community almost fully. And it is not confined to the Muslim men. If it were so, it would not have mattered very much. But I may say that almost half the number of workers—I am not exaggerating but I speak subject to correction—are Muslim women. What happens is that nowadays the work is done in the

27th December 1956] [Sri A. M. Allapichai]-

houses or huts during spare hours. After attending to cooking, if there is some spare time, they utilize it for this work and earn eight, twelve or sixteen annas a day. There are many families which are making a living out of this work. Chiefly, widows are making some money out of this. Therefore, when our Government think of legislation in regard to this matter, I would request them to consider this question very carefully because in our attempt to improve things, we should not throw out of employment thousands of people engaged in this industry.

Secondly, there has been some reference to Police excesses. If there is any excess, no doubt it has got to be put down. But, on this occasion, I cannot but say that the Police have done meritorious service to the public of Madras in completely putting down, what we were calling here, betting on cotton prices. Whenever I think of this matter, I have some kind of emotion. I have condemned the Police on the floor of this very House some time back. But now, let me say that the Police have done really meritorious service in putting down this betting on cotton prices and thus saving at least two lakhs of rupees of our people. These two lakhs of rupees were going into the pockets of the organizers of this betting. Many people were making money out of this business. They were earning thousands of rupees. Can one imagine one organiser having three or four cars and his managers having cars which even our Ministers cannot afford to have? All thanks to the Police for having put down this evil with firmness. There might have been some excesses here and there. No doubt, the Government will look into the matter. The Head of the Police Department will also look into it. In this connection, I have to thank our Minister for Finance and Education. He applied his mind immediately to putting down this menace to our society. He took action immediately. Perhaps, most of the Members could not know what amount of havoc it was working. It has been put an end to now. If there were some excesses here and there, surely it is the duty not only of the Government but of the Commissioner of Police to see that such excesses do not occur.

I have very great pleasure in saying that during the last 4 or 5 years, we have had a very good set of Ministers. They are very lovable persons. Our Chief Minister is a very good man and a great patriot. Then, we have our friend the Hon. Sri Subramaniam. I rather feel embarrassed to say something in praise of him as he is present here. It is really difficult and embarrassing to praise a person in his presence. But, what to do? We have to express our view. He will creditably fill any post in any part of the world. By his ability and so many other qualities, he can fill any post with dignity and credit. Then, we have got our friend the Hon. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam. He is a very able Minister. In his own unostentatious way, he has been doing very good work. Then, we have our ever-smiling Minister, the Hon. Sri M. A. Manickavelu. I am in a better position than my friend Sri Mohamed Raza Khan. He has wished the Ministers

[Sri A. M. Allapichai] [27th December 1956]

success. He has to stop with mere wishing. But, I shall go to their constituencies and work for them. Mr. Raza Khan has to stop with mere wishing, because I do not know what his party is going to decide. I had been to Delhi some time back. I found that our people there have great respect for our Ministers here. I am not leaking out a secret if I refer to a talk that I had with a particular gentleman. Some time back, I had been to East Godavari district and from there I proceeded to Kakinada where Mr. Bulusu Sambamurthy was staying. When I met him, he put me two questions. He first asked me, "How is your Chief Minister?". I replied him that "he was quite all right". Mr. Sambamurthy again told me that our Chief Minister was a very good man. His second question was, "How is your Finance Minister, Sri C. Subramaniam?". I replied that he too was quite all right. At this Mr. Sambamurthy remarked "Mr. Deshmukh has a very good opinion about Sri C. Subramaniam. He has a very good opinion about your Finance Minister". That is what he told me about our Finance Minister. Of course, I did not convey this message to Sri C. Subramaniam as I thought that was not necessary. I am mentioning this only to show that people outside are having a very good opinion about our Ministers; they really wish our Ministers to be successful in the coming elections. They really want our Ministers to win in the elections and come back to power once again and lead our State. That is my real wish also. With these words, I conclude my speech and thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Mr. Chairman, at the outset, I am extremely grateful for the kind reference made by the hon. Members here. It looked as if this was a valedictory function. It is in a sense, because this will be my last speech on the Budget during the present term of office. What will be the future, nobody can predict.

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY: You will be returned.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, the grand old man blesses me like that. I hope that blessing will have some effect.

With reference to the various points made on the Appropriation Bill, I wish to state that all the points made by the hon. Member Sri G. Krishnamoorthi have been very ably answered by the hon. Member Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan and that has made my task very easy. I wish this practice is developed here so that the Ministers will ultimately have very little to say.

With regard to the increase in the inspection staff, reference was made by the hon. Member Sri G. Krishnamoorthi who made a calculation between the expansion proposed in elementary education and expansion of the Inspectorate staff proposed in the Budget. Perhaps, he thought all the increase in inspection staff was due to the expansion programme alone. It is not so. All our inspecting staff are over-worked. So in order to give them relief it has been

27th December 1956] [Sri C. Subramaniam]

thought necessary to increase the staff. If inspection is unnecessary as the hon. Member thinks, then it is a different matter altogether. But, as long as that system is there; it will have to be efficient and effective and if it has to be efficient and effective, we cannot expect one Deputy Inspector of Schools to look after a large number of schools. That is why this increase in inspection staff has become necessary. I agree with the hon. Member Sri Srinivasavaradan that inspecting staff is necessary not in the old sense, but in the sense that they have to give guidance particularly to teachers who have newly come into the field. They have got a purpose to serve and I feel we will not be justified in abolishing this inspection staff altogether.

Sir, the hon. Member Sri T. Purushotham referred to sales tax, and stated that concessions had not been given in respect of coconut and milk. This is only an interim Budget, and I have not made any taxation proposals. Naturally, hon. Members will not, I hope, expect me to make proposals for granting concessions in respect of taxes.

I was rather surprised to hear the hon. Member Sri Purushotham saying that the Local Library Authorities had not been reconstituted. Because, I heard long ago about names which were being gathered. I thought that in the ordinary course orders would have been issued. I shall certainly find out what the position is with reference to this question. With reference to the discontinuance of the existing Committee, I think we should make a general rule that till the new committee is constituted, the old committee will continue to function. I think some such provision will prove to be salutary as otherwise, a void is likely to be created. I shall certainly look into the matter and see what has been done.

Sir, the hon. Member, Sri Balasubramanya Ayyar, referred to the temples in the Kanyakumari district. The administration of those temples is a little bit different from our administration here. Here, the temples have their own income and a Board of Trustees or some other managements have to look after the affairs of the temples within the income of the temples. Our Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department is only a supervisory department and for this supervision, the department collects some fee from the various temples. That is the pattern of administration as far as the Madras State temples are concerned. As far as the Kanyakumari district—I am referring to the old Travancore-Cochin State administration—is concerned, not only the administration of the temples was by the Government, but the revenues were provided out of Government funds and it was a charged item on the revenue, because they wanted the old system to continue and the temples to be administered in the way in which they were administered during the Rulers' Regime. That was why a special provision was made that a certain amount should be provided out of the revenues of the State and it should be a charged item. When the question of reorganization of States was taken up and the Kanyakumari district, as it is called now, was sought to be tacked

[Sri C. Subramaniam] [27th December 1956]

on to the Madras State, the question arose what was the position with regard to the temples in that area. After a good deal of discussion, it was decided that the same pattern of administration should continue in respect of that district as was the case in the old Travancore-Cochin State. Therefore, we would find that in the States Reorganization Act a specific provision has been made that out of our revenues a certain sum should be allotted and that it would be a charged item. It is thus not a question of merely supervising those temples. They will have to be administered by the department. That is why a Board is contemplated. It may be, we may make the Commissioner a single-member Board. It is quite conceivable. But what should be done will have to be considered carefully and we shall try to take all decisions in respect of this matter in consultation with people who are interested in the matter, particularly the authorities of the temples concerned and the people of the respective areas in Kanyakumari. They should not feel that after coming to Madras, they are being ignored or a different practice to which they are not accustomed is followed here. We should not give room for such feelings being entertained by them.

The hon. Member Mr. Raza Khan and the hon. Deputy Chairman made reference to the beedi industry and particularly to the legislation contemplated in respect of beedi labour. I take this opportunity to tell them that we do agree that it is a very important matter. But I do not think that it is possible to have that legislation passed during this session. The Assembly is being dissolved. Therefore, the question whether this legislation should be introduced by means of an Ordinance will have to be considered. But in all these things, it is better to avoid Ordinances. (Sri V. Chakkarai Chetty: 'Hear, hear.') Even though the industry may be an important one, I think we will have to wait till after the General Elections. Meanwhile, I would like to tell my friends Mr. Raza Khan and Mr. Allapichai that we have to look after the interests of the labourers and that if they need protection, we should give them that protection, at least to the extent we can. Therefore, the cry that the industry is being interfered with or is likely to be adversely affected by any step that the Government may take, will have to be considered from this point of view, viz., of the interests of labour also. They should get a living wage and their working conditions should be satisfactory. Unless we are able to satisfy these requirements, I am afraid, the industry, instead of proving beneficial to labourers, may do harm to them. We cannot allow them to live in insanitary conditions and on a starvation wage. If we do not assure them a living wage and provide decent working conditions, the industry, instead of justifying its existence, may call for not only interference but even abolition. Then, Sir, if it is found that an increased wage is necessary and more amenities should be provided for the beedi workers, the consumer will have to pay for these ultimately. After all, the petty manufacturer, whatever the wages he pays, cannot but pass on the burden to the consumer. Otherwise, he will be incurring a continuing loss. He must

27th December 1956] [Sri C. Subramaniam]

put up the price of beedis and in one sense, I feel it would be also good if the price of beedis is raised. It will operate as a good deterrent against smoking.

Then, Sir, reference was also made to the working of the handloom industry. The Government are very much interested in the development of this industry because lakhs of people are engaged in this industry. I may assure the hon. Member Mr. Raza Khan that it is not as if the handloom weavers in the co-operative fold alone are entitled to protection. The question is how the other weavers are to be helped. Therefore, we have prepared a programme to bring as many handloom weavers as possible into the co-operative fold. That is the one and the only easy solution to this problem. Once they are brought into the co-operative fold, the problem will be automatically solved.

The hon. Deputy Chairman referred to the working of the City Police. May I take this opportunity of paying my compliments to the very great and good work the City Police is doing, particularly in combating what is called the 'betting on New York cotton prices' menace? I am told that the menace has been almost completely eradicated, because nothing is possible of complete eradication. If, in the course of raids, the Police Force has committed certain excesses, I should really feel sorry. But I must point out one thing. It may be true that the Police Force has indulged in excesses in a case or two but what we hear often is only exaggerated versions or even, I would say, concocted versions. The Police is doing its job well and we must encourage it and say, "Well done." I would tell the hon. Member Mr. Raza Khan, if there are really any instances of excess committed by the Police, they should be isolated and brought to the notice of the authorities concerned, who will take necessary action. But we should not create an atmosphere wherein it could be said that the Police is only committing excesses and doing nothing else, especially when it is doing good work. That is my appeal to him. I do not deny the fact that the Police Force in its enthusiasm for service may commit excesses here and there. I would like those cases to be brought to my notice. But we cannot legitimately complain that excesses are the order of the day, especially on the floor of the House.

Now, we are going to pass the Appropriation Bill. With this closes one chapter of the history of this Legislature. And I hope we have done something for the people and tried our best to do good to the people. If we have not been able to achieve better results, perhaps, to a certain extent, it is due to our own shortcomings. But we have been trying to gain from the experience we had and particularly from the good advice tendered by the very many elderly and good people in this Council. That is why I attach very great importance to the deliberations of this House wherein people with great experience and with great worldly knowledge and wisdom are present. If we had not had the advantage of hearing their speeches in the past, particularly during the Budget sessions, we would not

[Sri C. Subramaniam] [27th December 1956]

have been able to do so many things in improving our administration. Therefore, I am thankful to all hon. Members who participated in the debates during the last four or five years in this House and particularly to those who pointed out our faults without fear or favour. After all, it is easy to say that everything is going on well. But what is needed is, we should know what is going wrong. That is the purpose of debate and this has been well served as far as this Council is concerned. So also, in the other House, Ministers have been helped much by the criticisms made by the Members, whether they were friendly or prejudiced. I must say one thing with regard to criticisms in this House, from whatever part of the House they came. They used to be caustic at times and although Ministers were also put out at times, yet it was all momentary. Still, I may assure hon. Members that we have been greatly benefited by the criticisms in this House.

I thank hon. Members for the kindness they have always shown me and I do not think it will be inappropriate if I express my thanks particularly to you, Sir, who have always a soft corner for me in your heart. I thank you once again for the uniform kindness you have shown me and let us hope we will be meeting again.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is—

“ That the Madras Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1956 (L.A. Bill No. 44 of 1956), as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was taken into consideration.

Clauses 2 and 3 were put and carried.

The Schedule was put and carried.

Clause 1 was put and carried.

The Preamble was put and carried.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, I move—

“ That the Madras Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1956 (L.A. Bill No. 44 of 1956), as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be passed.”

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is—

“ That the Madras Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1956 (L.A. Bill No. 44 of 1956), as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be passed.”

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed.